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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE FAR-EAST

CAMBODIA, LAOS, THAILAND AND VIET-NAM

Committee for Coordination of Investigations
of the Lower Mekong Basin

SURVEY OF THE POWER MARKET FOR DOMESTIC, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL USES IN THE LOWER MEKONG BASIN

Quarterly Progress Report No. 1

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	1
II.	Overall Description of Activities	2
III.	Evaluation of the Progress of the Survey and General Observations	6

I. - INTRODUCTION

In connexion with the survey of the power market for domestic, commercial and industrial uses in the different countries associated in the Committee for Co-ordination for investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin, a plan of operation, issued as document E/CN-II/MRD/MKG/L.69 Rev.2 on 31 October 1962, was established.

The last signature accepting the provisions of this plan of operation was given on behalf of the French Government in February 1963, the official date for the starting of the survey being set at March 1, 1963.

Article VI of the Plan of operation provides that progress reports shall be submitted by the Project Manager to the Executive Agent at quarterly intervals. This report describes the progress accomplished to 20 May 1963.

Activities have been described in the order in which they were conducted.

II.- OVERALL DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES -

The first part of the working programme referred to below corresponds to the initial stage of the general survey, the main purpose of which is as follows:

Io) - Collection and comparative, critical assessment of existing documents on the subjects to be investigated, in order to determine which items remain to be covered.

2o) - Preparation, in consultation with the relevant authorities of each government, of the detailed programme of investigations to be conducted in the areas under survey. This programme must lay down, in addition to the work schedule to be followed, the scope of the questions to be asked and of the information to be obtained, in order to make its subsequent utilization easier.

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In the course of the two and a half months which elapsed since the start of the survey (1 March 1963) activities have been as follows:

THAILAND.-

- First contacts of the Project Manager with:
  - Mr. H. SCHAAF, Executive Agent, and the different members of the Office of the Mekong Committee.
  - Mr. BOONROD BINSON, Secretary General of the National Energy Authority, and the department managers of that organization, so as to get acquainted with the said organization and the means made available to the Mission.
- Opening in the technical services of the N.E.A. of an office for the servicing of the survey in THAILAND.
- With the help of the N.E.A., various applications to the relevant authorities for obtaining different permissions (visa, purchase of car, office equipment, etc...)

/- Definition...

- Definition, in consultation with Mr. ATHORN PRATUMASOOTRA, co-director of the Project, of the general scope of the survey report.
- Preliminary examination of the first overall statistical data.
- Provisional study of the projects prepared in connexion with the electrification of the different regions of THAILAND.
- Preparation of files and charts for the classification of the overall information to be utilized in connection with the preparation of the report.
- Various contacts with the Mekong Committee services (administrative questions etc...)
- This has been done between I and 29 March 1963. All liaison questions have been greatly facilitated by the different N.E.A. authorities.

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CAMBODIA.-

Beginning April 1963, applications have been made for interviews with different Cambodian authorities in order to secure overall information pertaining to demographic and economic data as well as the situation of the energy market in the Kingdom.

These interviews have been as follows:

- Mr. PHLEK CHHAT, General Manager of the Plan, delegate to the Mekong Committee.
- Mr. TAN NOB, Technical Manager of "Electricité du Cambodge".
- Mr. DE SELYS LONGCHAMPS, UN Representative (Technical Assistance)
- Different department managers of the Ministry of the Plan and f the Ministry of Public Works.
- Mr. RENG-LONG, Manager of the Service des Mines.
- Mr. KORENCIC, UN Demographic Expert.
- Mr. PENG PONN, Acting co-manager of the Energy Market Survey.
- Mr. V. MOLLYVAN, Minister of Public Works.
- Mr. SRIN SAMY, Manager of the Agricultural Services.

The statistics and data gathered during these interviews have been tentatively examined and classified.

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- The second SOFRELEC engineer, Mr. VINAY, arrived in Phnom-Penh on 20 April 1963. He will more particularly devote his attention while in Cambodia to the study of existing data and the preparation of the additional question lists.

- An office has been made available to the Mission on 25 April 1963 on the premises of the Public Works Ministry.

Since then, the collection and processing of statistic data required for the survey have been carried on and the Mission keeps in contact with different competent officials, and more especially with Mr. CHAM PECH, co-director of the Project, whos has returned from mission.

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VIET-NAM.-

The Project Manager spent approximately 20 days in VIET-NAM (27 April - 15 May 1963).

During his stay, he visited the following officials:

- Mr. SANH, Delegate to the Mekong Committee;
- Mr. DINH QUANG-CHIEN, General Manager of Electricité du VIET-NAM;
- Mr. MINH, Manager of the Statistical Service;
- Mr. QUANG, Manager of Service du contrôle des D.E.E.;
- Mr. BACCOT, Inspector of the CEE (concessionnary company);
- Mr. BOUCHEX, Manager of the SIPEA(" ");
- Mr. DANG, Manager of the transportation services;
- Mr. KHAI, Manager of the Mines Department;
- Mr. HUE, Manager of the VIET-NAM National Bank
- Mr. DUONG, Railways Manager;
- Mr. TRINH, General Secretary for Rural Affairs;

Many overall indications and statistics have been collected; they will be processed at a later stage.

These visits were all facilitated by the engineers of the Electricité du VIET-NAM, delegated by the co-director of the Project.

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LAOS.-

Originally, the Project Manager was supposed to spend about three weeks in VIENTIANE, beginning 14 May 1963.

This programme had to be altered for the following reasons:

- postponement in scheduled activities, while in PHNOM-PENH, due to the arrival and installation of Mr. VINAY, as well as to the interruption of activity of administrative services during the April holidays.
- meeting in Bangkok of the Mekong Committee session.

A new programme will be prepared in agreement with the members of the Laotian delegation during their stay in Bangkok.

III. - EVALUATION OF THE PROGRESS OF THE SURVEY AND GENERAL OBSERVATIONS -

(In the same order as stated above)

THAILAND.-

The progress percentage can be assessed at 10%.

Many statistics are published. However, some ancient data will necessitate special research work as well as additional applications.

CAMBODIA.-

The progress percentage can be assessed at 15%.

The statistical data have to be collected. The final results of the population census will not be published before one year. Sufficiently precise question lists will have to be drafted and the further development of the survey will depend upon the answers received.

VIET-NAM.-

The progress percentage can be put at between 5 and 8%.

Publications are numerous. Their processing will be a rather lengthy operation. Additional question lists will be prepared.

LAOS.-

The survey has not begun in that country.